

The other group is clinicians who give their views on their patients by observing the images used for the primary diagnoses by the radiologists. In this case, the images are mere references and their views are determined based on the diagnostic reports. Therefore, moderate level images are sufficient. For viewing such images, the reference terminal system 4 which does not have high level CRT's is used.

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An operation of the first embodiment will be explained next. Figure <sup>3</sup>~~2~~ is a flow chart showing processing carried out by the data transfer system according to the first embodiment. At step S1, an instruction to request transfer of the image data S0 and the name of the terminal user are input from the image reading terminal system 3 or the reference terminal system 4. The terminal system 3 or 4 transfers transfer information of the image data S0 and information regarding the name of the user of the terminal system 3 or 4 to the image server 2 via the network 6 or 7 respectively (step S2). Having received the information, the image server 2 refers to a name list registered in a database of the image server, based on the information regarding the user name (step S3), and judges whether or not the user is a radiologist to use the image reading terminal system 3 (step S4). If the user is a radiologist, the image server specifies data at a highest level, that is, reversibly compressed data at a highest resolution and having a highest bit resolution, and transfers the data at the highest level to one of the terminals 3A or 3B which is desired by the user (step S5) to

What is claimed is:

1. A method of transferring image data from an image server storing image data comprising a plurality of levels to a terminal connected to the image server, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

transferring to the terminal the image data at a level appropriate for the terminal, based on the information regarding the terminal.

2. A method of transferring image data to a terminal connected to an image server from the server which comprises means for storing image data and converting a level of an image to be output, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

transferring to the terminal the image data at a level appropriate for the terminal, based on the information regarding the terminal.

3. A data transfer method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the information regarding the terminal is information regarding a user of the terminal input from the terminal.

4. A data transfer method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the information regarding the terminal is information specific to the terminal.

5. A data transfer method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the information regarding the terminal is information regarding usage of the image data and input from the terminal.

6. An apparatus for transferring image data from an image server storing image data comprising a plurality of levels to a terminal connected to the image server, the apparatus comprising:

5 terminal information obtaining means for obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

transfer means for transferring to the terminal the image data at a level appropriate for the terminal, based on the information regarding the terminal.

10 7. An apparatus for transferring image data to a terminal connected to an image server from the server which comprises means for storing image data and converting a level of an image to be output, the apparatus comprising:

15 terminal information obtaining means for obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

transfer means for transferring to the terminal the image data at a level appropriate for the terminal, based on the information regarding the terminal.

20 8. A computer readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a method of transferring image data from an image server storing image data comprising a plurality of levels to a terminal connected to the image server, the program comprising the procedures of:

obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

25 transferring to the terminal the image data at a level appropriate for the terminal, based on the information

regarding the terminal.

9. A computer readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a method of transferring image data to a terminal connected to an image server from the server which comprises means for storing image data and  
5 converting a level of an image to be output, the program comprising the procedures of:

obtaining information regarding the terminal; and

transferring to the terminal the image data at a level  
10 appropriate for the terminal, based on the information regarding the terminal.